



HR0350

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Military heroes who served valiantly and
3 honorably in wars in which this country's freedom was at stake
4 should be recognized by the people of this great nation; the
5 courage with which these soldiers fought should never be
6 forgotten; and

7 WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with
8 its long standing traditions, it is the sense of the members of
9 this body to urge Congress to recognize the 65th Infantry
10 Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers, and recommend that the
11 regiment receives the Congressional Gold Medal; and

12 WHEREAS, This auspicious honor is an award bestowed by the
13 United States Congress and is, along with the Presidential
14 Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United
15 States; it is given to persons who have had an impact on
16 American history and culture that is likely to be recognized
17 long after the achievement of the meritorious events; the
18 Borinqueneers have truly had this kind of impact; and

19 WHEREAS, Mandated by Congress in 1899, the 65th Infantry
20 Regiment from Puerto Rico, the Borinqueneers, played a
21 prominent role in American military history; the regiment has
22 participated in 3 United States wars, World War I, World War

1 II, and, most notably, the Korean War; and

2 WHEREAS, Enlisted in the United States Armed Forces, the
3 Borinqueneers courageously shed their blood, sweat, and tears
4 to defend our freedoms; and

5 WHEREAS, The 65th Infantry Regiment of Puerto Rico earned
6 the sole distinction of conducting the last battalion-sized
7 bayonet charge in American military history; one battalion from
8 the 65th Infantry Regiment, the Borinqueneers, gallantly faced
9 overwhelming odds on February 2, 1951, while in combat against
10 the 9th Chinese Infantry Division; and

11 WHEREAS, The 65th Infantry Regiment served with
12 distinction and valor, earning two Presidential Unit
13 Citations, an Army Unit Superior Award, a Navy Unit Citation,
14 two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations, and the
15 Bravery Gold Medal of Greece; and

16 WHEREAS, The Congressional Gold Medal of Honor would affirm
17 that the 65th Infantry Regiment, the Borinqueneers, is an
18 American national treasure, who served their country with honor
19 and bravery; and

20 WHEREAS, In the spirit of true American heroism, the 65th
21 Infantry Regiment of Puerto Rico is an inspiration to every

1 American; they are exceptional soldiers who deserve to be
2 recognized, commended, acknowledged, and remembered by the
3 people of the State of Illinois and the citizens of this great
4 nation; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
6 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we urge Congress to recognize the 65th Infantry Regiment of
8 Puerto Rico, known as the Borinqueneers, and further recommend
9 that they receive the Congressional Gold Medal based on their
10 gallant record of achievement on the battlefields,
11 particularly in Korea from 1950 to 1953; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
13 delivered to the President of the Senate of the United States;
14 the Speaker of the House of Representatives; the members of the
15 Illinois congressional delegation; Frank Medina, National
16 Chair of the Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance;
17 Anthony Mele, Chairman of the 65th Infantry Regiment Honor Task
18 Force and great-grandson of Leonicio Beauchamp (65th Infantry
19 Regiment of Puerto Rico - 1917); and Javier Morales, President
20 of the 65th Infantry Veterans Association in Puerto Rico.